Understanding the Common Side Effect of Pain During Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Treatment

Findings from a study of patients with Major Depressive Disorder receiving high frequency rTMS to the left DLPFC

### Factors Associated with Pain

- **Little to no pain is expected at 20% stimulation intensity**, and each 10% increase is associated with on average **+0.7 points**.

- **Female** patients report pain at an average of **+0.4 points** higher than male patients.

- **Patients receiving iTBS** report pain at an average of **+0.76 points** higher compared to 10Hz.

- **Patients with the highest level of anxiety** report on average **+1.2 points** of pain compared to patients with no anxiety.

- Older patients report an average of **+0.2 points** more per 10 years of age (starting age: 18).

### Common courses of experienced pain during 6 weeks of daily treatment

- **High pain, slight decrease**
- **High pain, rapid decrease**
- **High pain, delayed decrease**
- **Low pain**

Most patients report low pain or notice a large decrease in pain over the course of treatment.

Percentage of patients experiencing pain course:

- 47%
- 19%
- 21%
- 13%

Citation ?